American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Idabelle Main Papers, 1895-1978

Series I

Correspondence

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
January 1930 – November 1930

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華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

Jan. 26, 1930

Dear Mother:

The past few days have been hectic. We had inaugural, Jan 18, exams., Commencement, and then our young Chinese dean was married. We have had a great time, and, I hope, a profitable one for Hwa Nan College. We are going to have to build up our lower schools. Our college graduates do not begin to fill the demand. The class this year was 18 in number, going to serve in 4 missions. We could have placed each 3 times over. In Foochow alone, we should have 3 Junior Middle Schools of the Tai Mai type, self supporting: this at Tai Mai, 300 in Primary & Jr. Middle; one at Hwa Nan should be built up to grade 8 number; and one in the city should be built at the

Institutional church. We should have nearly 900 children - girls - in well supervised schools in Foochow alone - These schools could be self- supporting and entirely managed by the Chinese girls -

I have been fighting colds all winter, and have kept pretty well on top. Am staying at home from church this A. M. because of one. The schools are out, the morning rainy, and I should go if it were a heated church. But it would be foolish to go as it is.

Am leading a class of church women in Foochow language. We are studying "The Holy Spirit" But several of the women are American returned students, so I turn to them when I get stuck. Am enjoying it greatly and am getting

Jan 31, 1930

Lillian Green has resigned from the W.F.M.S., saying she wants to "live by faith, and trust God for everything." Too bad! I hope they will not accept her resignation or that Dr. Mrs. Mossman may be able to help her.

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China

Much help from it. Am hoping to have translated into Modern Chinese, John Wesley's "Christian Perfection". It has not been done, and tho' written about 1777, it has many very valuable statements, and much sound doctrine.

Next summer I expect to go to Yenching University and start study on an A.M. there in sociology! The education dept. there is over-crowded. Am teaching a bit in it, but feel under conviction that it must be given into the hands of Chinese young women as soon as possible. No one is ready for history-sociology, so am going to prepare until the Chinese girls are ready for it. Besides, it will keep me growing.

My Foochow does not no require all my

extra time, as I can use it fairly well. I would give myself a D grade in it!

No word from home for two weeks or more. I am so very glad that you are happy in Daytona Beach. Your struggles with fire-making reminds me of our task in Formosa, with a charcoal fire, when we had to fan it for 20 minutes twice a day to make it go!

With my dear love,

Ida -

Miss Bonafield is here for a while, and Mrs. Wilkinson, housemother, our two Hwa Nan new missionaries, Dorothy, Mrs. W.'s Chinese daughter, and Hannel Halverstadt from Hantang make up our family.

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

Feb. 1, 1920.

Dear Mother:

Your good letter came on the last mail bringing joy - Am so glad that you are South, and that you will escape cold - We are having four days of beautiful weather, and this promises to be the fifth. Coming just at Chinese New Year, people are especially grateful for it. I spent three of the days out at Black Rock Hill, in the sunshine. It is a glorious place, high above the city. The temples have made the place sacred, and there are almost no buildings - It is possible to find a sheltered spot and be absolutely alone in the midst of beauty - a rare thing indeed

in China. And we have need of these places now.

Yesterday three of the old, established banking houses of the city failed, and the families have escaped to Singapore. People are restive. Exchange, as you may know, is $2.58 Mex for $1 gold. We are paid 2 for 1 so the W.F.M.S. is making thousands on it - Am glad, for many years they look at this exchange rate.

Chinese new Year has flourished. It was forbidden by law! But they changed it to "Spring Vacation" and went merrily on - Firecrackers, gala lanterns, well dressed people and feastings have marked the time. New Year's day I went to one of our Methodist churches for special service. They began with "The Year

of Jubilee Has Come" with firecrackers outside - Prayers, hymns, children's songs and dances (I saw the mark - but the Chinese love them and they managed entirely the meeting) stories, sleight of hand, a song and sermon by Dr. Wang Sang Hua and another sermon by the pastor. Hymns, another prayer, the benediction, firecrackers again, watermellon seeds and gék's - closed the meeting - I was the only foreigner present. But I feel sure the Lord was there -

It is bitter cold outside today - I shall wrap up well for church - leggings and all -

Mrs. Garden - who was Miss Semester, is coming thru with her husband from India. The Chinese leaders, 40 of

them gave a feast for them each night. It was lovely. If we could have more times like that, the world would be a happier place.

Good letters from John, Clara and little Patricia. Tommy signed his name - Clara has had a hard winter. Life is a hard struggle - but there is a good deal of joy in it - too. If they could only keep well, their worst enemy - illness - would be conquered. I wonder if mankind will ever conquer disease - I hope so -

With deepest love, and regards to Mrs. K -

Ida.

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

Feb. 17, 1930.

Dear Mother:

Last week, the last week of vacation, I took an absolute vacation, saying "No" to the multitudes of dates that crowded me, reading and resting at least 15 hours out of the 24. Now school is beginning and we are glad to see the girls again.

The great event was the visit of Bishop Nueloon to Foochow. He came to ordain the Yenping preachers who could not be ordained at Conference time because Bp. Keeney was ill and Mr. Bankhardt presided. However, because of bandits, the preachers could not come down, and Bishop Nueloon

simply visited us - He spoke of the encroachment of Communism in Europe and the fight that Christianity is making in European nations. It is strong in Germany and the Near East. He made the statement that "The Christian Movement in China is the only thing that stands between the Far East and World Communism" He feels that if China goes red, India, Japan & Korea will soon follow, and then they can concentrate on the rest of the world. There are many fine things in Socialism & Communism, but its anti-religious push is ominous for the world.

Am greatly interested in your lectures Am so very glad you are having them I teach Sociology & 2 Educ. classes this term.

My dear love to you - Ever - Idar

Washington Birthday

Banquet

- from stamp!

- colored

Saturday evening, February 22, 1930.

Hwa Nan, Nantai,

Foochow, China.

Auspices, The American Association

About 80 of the some 125 Americans in port were present.

Menu

Fruit Cocktail

Oxtail Soup

Chicken a la King

Potatoes au Gratin

Carrots au Beurre

Combination Salad

Rolls, Butter, Jam

Washington Pie

Coffee Peanuts

PROGRAM

not present. Temp. 104 Sunstroke from golf.

Chairman — Consul Samuel Sokobin

Song — *My Country 'Tis of Thee*

Invocation — Dr. Beard

Solo — Mr. Quade

Reading — Mr. Culver – Weather is the preacher at Mt. Vernon

Presentation of Prize to Winner of Historical Contest

Solo — Mrs. Scott

Address — Mr. Bissonnette

Selection — Male Quartette

Group Singing

Pantomime

The Flag and What It Stands For

Salute to the Flag

Song — *America the Beautiful.*

Dinner Music

Hwa Nan Mandolin Club

Mrs. Quade

Mrs. Stockwell

Dill Pickle Quartette

1st Tenor	Mr. Quade
2nd Tenor	Mr. Newell
1st Bass	Mr. Leger
2nd Bass	Mr. Culver

Leader of Group Singing

Mr. Newell

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

Feb. 24-1930.

The great China Methodist Conference is on at Nanking. Perhaps we'll have a Chinese bishop, or perhaps two - this week! But no word has come yet, of course -

Dear Mother:

Another week has slipped by with work and some play - How we need patience for the days! But we get accustomed to rumors, to a changed attitude and try to adjust. I wonder how I would have felt in the Middle Ages in Europe, in the French Revolution, or how I would feel in Russia today - The battle is God's. My vision is limited; and it is an abiding joy to be confident that He rules above the mistakes of men.

My classes are a delight, as are the girls. Our students are eager as

they have always been. My Bible classes: ~~three~~ in Mandarin, one in Foochow, are also a great delight. And I greatly enjoy my occasional sojourns to the village and out into the countryside.

We are having real summer weather. A coat is an impossibility and all of our winter clothes are off. This may not last, but we have had a week of it, anyway. The grass is scattered with violets, roses bloom with iris.

My deep love to you, and regards to Mrs. K. Ever- Ida.

Songs at the dinner.

The Song of the States.

1. Oh what did Ida-ho, boys, Oh what did Ida-ho?
Oh what did Ida-ho, boys, Oh what did Ida-ho?
I ask you again as a personal friend,
What did Ida-ho?

She hoed her Maryland, boys, she hoed her Maryland.
She hoed her Maryland, boys, she hoed her Maryland.
I tell you again as a personal friend,
She hoed her Maryland.

2. What did Dela-ware? - - Her New Jersey.

3. What did Io-wa? Washington.

4. Where has Ore-gon? He's taking Okla-home.

5. Tenne-see? - - - What Arkan- saw.

6. Wisconsin? - - - Stole New-bras-key.

7. What did Minne-so? - - She sewed Da Kote.

8. Connecti-cut? - - New Hampshire.

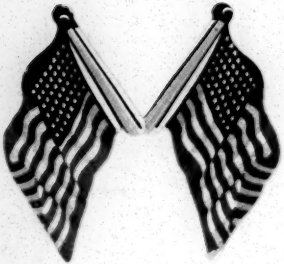
9. Philippine? Caroline

10. Flori-di? Missouri.

Sing to scale.

I had a little kitty do
Her coat was silver gray, re
She lived down in the meadow mi
Not very for away. fa
She'll always bea pussy sol
She'll never be a cat, la
For she's a Pussy Willow ti
Now what do you think of that! do Miew--- Scat. - Shoul -

Sweet Rosy O'Grady
She was a seamstress by birth,
Rosy grew tired of living,
Decided to leave this earth,
So she swallowed a tape-line,
But dying by inches was hard,
So Rosy went out in the alley
And lay down and died by the yard.



Dr. Lewis

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

March 5, 1930.

Dear Mother:

Your good letter of Jan. 28 is here. I am so very happy that you are having a good winter away from the frigid regions of Iowa! Was greatly interested in your visit with Bishop & Mrs. Brown, and greatly heartened by your words of counsel. Never has there been such a hard 6 months in my missionary experience. Bishop McDowell in the Feb. Friend says, "Christian history is strewn with the wrecks of fine enterprises abandoned because the motive behind them lacked largeness & endurance." I know that God wants me to be here yet - and we must

endure hardness as good soldiers with the added task of "long suffering with joyfulness!" But with Bishop Nuelsen saying that the "Christian Movement in China is the only thing standing between Christian civilization and World Communism" I'm going to stay on in any capacity as long as my life will be of service.

Weekly the Foochow becomes more easy to speak - about 20 women attend these talks - and it does me more good than it does them. Tomorrow I speak at A.C. College - next week at the Univ. again -

You have heard long ere this of Bishop Gowdy's election. We rejoice greatly. We've not heard yet of any other election. Am sending your quotation to Mrs. Gowdy. She will appreciate it very much -

Come to dinner any time we shall be glad

My dear love to you - Ida.

Shanghai

華南女大學
HWA NAN COLLEGE
Foochow, China.

June 15 - 1930.

Dear Mother:

We arrived in Shanghai, 8:30 a.m. Friday morning after one of the best trips I ever had. I had conference with Dr. Miao who is Acting Gen. Sec. of the China Christian Ed. Assn. and others in the A.M. and at 1:30 brought out my baggage. I was unpacked and settled by suppertime - all that I expect to unpack. Am perfectly comfortable now.

why bother with more?
Miss Bonafield, Miss Bosworth
Bessie Hollows and I are
the "regulars" now, and
Miss Lana White is here
for the Week ends. She is
not well - high blood pressure
and nerve strain. Of
course, everyone has
nerve strain these days,
but some are worse
than others -

I am to get out the
October number of the
"Review" which must
be ready by the last of

August, so I shall be in Shanghai the first week in August, D.V. It is delightfully cool here now - much cooler than Foochow -

I find many problems here in Shanghai - The department of education is definitely anti-Christian. People are anxious - are even thinking of discontinuing the Christian Ed. Assn. If so, I have urgent offers to go to Yenching - What is happening to me is happening

to many. The North, they say, is more conservative. Communism is strong everywhere. Fortunately it was beaten back in Foochow last week. And it may not succeed — but there is a heavy current of communistic thinking even among our Christian leaders. I am going to do my level best, and am going to stick in China in any capacity as long as possible.

Miss Bosworth sends special greetings — says she remembers the "persimmons". With deepest love — Ida.

Shanghai -
Aug. 26 - 1930

Dear Mother:

Your good letter came on the last mail - and brought with it good news - Am glad for your health, for the garden and the radis. We have been having splendid concerts here every Saturday night. There are really four each week, and they are all crowded; but I go only Saturday, as it begins at 9:15 and we do not get home until after 11 - However, it is something to look forward to -

The work goes on daily. I am writing every day, and hope to have a stronger style. I wish I could take one of John's composition

courses - If this magazine is a success, and if it meets the needs of today in China, I shall be very thankful - The young men in the office are splendid, and visitors come in daily from all over China. This makes life a constant variety.

It is very hot - The thermometer is not nearly so high as it is in Iowa: 82°, 85°, 88°, 90°. But we almost perish with the heat. It is humidity - I have to sleep under a net, and we, fortunately have ice and electric fans. But the summer is almost over now.

Things look interesting around us. Communism is in the air. Can we make it Christian? My deepest love, ever -

Ida.

TELEPHONE 68733

CABLE ADDRESS: CHIGONGOM SHANGHAI

THE CHINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
中華基督教教育會
THE MISSIONS BUILDING
23 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD
SHANGHAI

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E. W. WALLACE

October 20, 1920.

Dear Mother:

My life is now being lived in quite a whirl. I want to go up to Nanking, but have not yet seen my way clear. Dr. Miao is back and is heavily loaded. I have to take part of his load. But Nanking will be my only chance of attending a conference this year, and I am enough of a Methodist to desire to go! Dr. Miao has just lost his father. His faith, reaching into the unseen world, is beautiful to

see. He read I Cor. 15:35-58 this morning, and said: "Our other faiths do not have this clear statement about death. In Christ is life eternal." This, after your notice of Oliver Lodge, and of Aunt Mary's letter, is most interesting. Dr. Mias is wearing Chinese clothes: a black cotton jacket, a gray coarse cotton gown, black stockings and white cotton shoes - An interesty combination of East-West mourning.

Aunt Mary's letter is a joy, as always. It is better to have written a book that satisfies Father's friends than to have written a "Best Seller" -

Miss Ella Shaw arrives in about half-an-hour with her brother - I hope to get to the Jetty to meet her - Am thankful you can get to Florida - It will be a second home. Soon - With deepest love - Ella.

790 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK CITY

Sept.20th, I930.

My own dearest Ida;-

I have just finished reading the "Life" of your sainted Father, and Uncle Frank is in the midst of it. It probably may seem strange indeed that we did not do this very thing when the book first came out, and under ordinary circumstances we should. But I was very sick last winter with my old trouble, gall bladder inflamation, and long in convalescing. When I was able to move we came to New York, found an apartment and settled here. But because we brought into our limited quarters household good and personal belongings that had been in my parental home, and most of which had been many years in storage, FOUR big van loads of things were set down in our few rooms, and all had to be looked over. Much, very much was sent to charitable institutions and church deaconnesses, and some articles we were able to keep. But the

work was exceedingly tedious and heart-wearing because of the memories awakened, and altogether we were quite worn out when sometime in the summer we found ourselves fairly in order and able to live comfortably. Then we tried to rest a bit. But always we longed to get YOUR book and pour over its pages, for we LOVED your Father, as we both also love YOU. Darling Ida, you have written a beautiful Memoir, and surely the Lord especially helped you in this blessed task.Not only did I find the book most intensely interesting, but what I know will make you gladder still, a great spiritual inspiration. What a Christian your Father was! As Uncle Frank says Bishop Bashford used often to reiterate,-"Bishop Lewis knows God", and what finer, more meaningful tribute could be paid any one? It seems to me that you have arranged your material with remarkable skill. You have also brought out the saliant features of your Father's life and his marked characteristics in a way that one who reads the book, can never forget. Then the sweet, intimate touches that have to do

with his home life and his love for his children, touched my heart deeply. I am sure no one can read your book without being blessed by it, and I want to thank you personally for the good, the lasting good, it has done me.

We are happy to learn that you are now in Shanghai and editing the Educational Review as a part of your God-given task. We are sure it will be only a portion of it, for your influence and your efforts will reach out into a wide area, with multitudinous ramifications. The Lord has by nature richly endowed you, and you are splendidly equipped for the largest service. You cannot know how we rejoice in all this. And do you know Ida, as I read your book, again and again the thought was impressed upon me, that your sainted Father and Mother too, were permitted to be your "Ministering Angels," and were nearer you and doing more for you, than ever they could while on earth. I am

sure this is true. Take care not to overtax yourself these strenuous days in poor, suffering, upset China. We are seeing quite a few missionaries as they come and go, and some fine Chinese. One who spent some days in New York was Mrs.F.K.Tsao. I think you know her. If not, do try to see her, for you and she will love each other. Mrs.Tsao whose home is in Shanghai,- /is a faithful member of the M.E.Church, South,and was a delegate to the General Conference of that Church held last May, as you remember, in Dallas. She is also treasurer of the Chinese Home Missionary Society. Well, it is getting late and I must not write more now, though my hearts prompts me to keep on and on, for there is so much I long to share with you. You will be hearing soon from Uncle Frank himself, but in the meantime I will send you heaps of love from him together with a big, big share from me. Please Dear, never forget, that you "belong" to us, and have your own sure and abiding place in our hearts.

Ever most lovingly,

Aunt Mary G.

TELEPHONE 68733

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E. C. LOBENSTINE
E. W. WALLACE

Nov. 1 - 1930.

Dear Mother:

Yours of Oct. 6 came in this A. M. It seems a brief space of time now, but will take longer when you get to Florida. Dr. Mrs. George Herbert Betts of Cornell, Ia. & Northwestern. He is visiting colleges & is trying to find out about missions. Then, Nov. 7 we have another group of laymen who are making an "independent audit" on missions. They are reading the magazines, listening to returned students and globe-trotters & honestly wonder whether or not the work of missions is worth while. I hope they can help us. They come financed by Rockefeller's foundation of the "Institute

for Social & Religious Research" of N.Y.C.
They are experts at social research & are
called the "Fact Finding Commission".
I hope they'll be a help to us.

Dr Franklin of the Baptist Board said
it seemed to him the Lord was saying to the
church. 'Could ye not watch with me
one hour?!' in the matter of the Orient.
It is true that some of the Chinese Christians
feel that mission property should be turned
over to the Chinese. One even said to me that
he thot we should "give our Christian schools
to the govt. saying, 'We have done our best,
God bless you. Take them & go forward'. Thus
would we prove our sincerity in not being
imperialistic & go the second mile"! I
told him I did not agree - but neither
of us convinced the other. And he is
a national Christian educator. Of
course I have not quoted him publicly.
However, in many places the Christians
are standing loyal and true.

TELEPHONE 68733

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A letter from Joy Smith of Nanking this A.M. says, "I am finding that the Heavenly Father is more dependable even than I realized. I never had so many prayers answered in a short time since I came here. The harder the proposition the more sure he is to stand by and help us out. He has not deserted us." That is the note we can play upon now. For God is in the whirlwind, and "moves upon the storm."

I have sent a longer article to the Christian Century. Maybe and maybe not will they publish it!

I have tried to be very fair & close on a note of hope. It does not reflect true Christianity if we are pessimistic. God is leading - of this I am sure -

Nov 1 - 1930

Am anxious over the U.S.A. financial situation. I hope indeed that things may get better. It is linked with the entire world. Things were never so bad in China, with exchange hovering about $3.50 Mex for $1 Gold. Japan and everywhere else is suffering from unemployment. I do hope something will change the whole -

Am so glad you are escaping the cold and are in the land of flowers. We have fire at home but none in the office -

With much love -

Ida.